

**Village of Ardentown  
Ardentown, DE 19810**

**Established 1922  
Incorporated 1975**

The regular meeting of the Village of Ardentown was convened at 7:30 pm on Monday, November 11, 2019. Alison Wakelin, Chair, presiding. A quorum was present.

***In Attendance***

- |                             |                         |                          |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Beverly Schilling Gillis | 11. Lee Painter         | 21. Holly Custer         |
| 2. Beverley Fleming         | 12. Joe Painter         | 22. Barbara Conway       |
| 3. Steve Cohen              | 13. Joe Grippe          | 23. Paul Romagano        |
| 4. Dotty Verne              | 14. Katrina Nelson      | 24. Elaine Schmerling    |
| 5. Cindy Cohen              | 15. Suzanne Cherrin     | 25. Maureen Gordon       |
| 6. Drew Hansen              | 16. Alison Wakelin      | 26. Melissa Parsonson    |
| 7. Terri Hansen             | 17. Janet Cosgrove      | 27. William Parsonson    |
| 8. Janna Scheflen           | 18. Lisa Wilson Riblett | 28. John H McCormick III |
| 9. Joan Fitzgerald          | 19. Betty Ann Thernal   | 29. Annie Gutsche        |
| 10. Bob Lockerman           | 20. Harry Thernal       |                          |

***A moment of silence was observed in honor of the passing of Hetty Francke***

**MEETING:** Regular meeting called to order at 7:30 pm by Alison Wakelin, Town Chair

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** The minutes of the September 2019 meeting were approved. It was suggested and agreed that Terri will make sure to include full names in the minutes in future.

**AUDIT COMMITTEE REPORT:** Steven Curley presented the Audit Committee report

**County Executive, Matthew Meyer** was an invited guest for the immediately preceding “wine and cheese” social hour. He gave brief remarks at the start of the meeting:

“NCCo Reads” program will be hosting a gathering introducing the author Min Jin Lee, and her book “Pachinko”. Mr. Meyer cited polls reporting that national sentiment places trust in local governments, affirming that NCCo strives to live up to this trust. He went on to hand out flyers related to NCCo’s efforts to improve services and the dissemination of information to constituents. NCCo just won over 2 million federal dollars to create a Behavioral Health Unit. The root cause of many police calls are mental health or substance abuse related, and this program creates an alternative to arrest for individuals who need help, not punishment. This also reduces costs.

A land preservation task force has been formed to examine key questions and shape a plan for enhancing the County’s land preservation strategy, to preserve open land in NCCo. This group will be working on increasing resources for the purchase and maintenance of land, creating a system that will address the pressures on County government when open land becomes available for purchase or development.

**Questions:**

Alison Wakelin – What is the likelihood of a new assessment for property tax purposes?

NCC last did an assessment in 1983. County government is looking at ways to address this lag. The county is working with the court system to organize a reassessment of property values.

Harry Thernal -- shouldn’t this be a state process?

In a state as small as DE it makes sense. NCC is pushing this, but there isn’t the will in an election year for something like this.

Andrew Hansen - How did the county attract Wegmans?

Matt Meyer set a goal to attract higher quality retail and he worked to bring Wegmans to the Barley Mill property, which has been a problematic property to redevelop.

**State Representative Ray Seigfried**, guest – Matt Meyer also has one program within the police department that is working on the opioid epidemic. Ray called our attention to a brand new historic marker that has been placed outside the Candlelight Theatre to mark its 50 years of operation. Ray has also worked hard all summer to find ways of bringing down the prices of pharmaceuticals

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** Holly Custer reporting:

Operating Accounts:	\$41,833.90
Municipal Street Aid:	\$28,206.18
<u>Arden Building and Loan:</u>	<u>\$19,965.18</u>
<b><i>Total Funds Available:</i></b>	<b><i>\$90,005.26</i></b>

**REGISTRATION COMMITTEE:** Cindy Cohen reporting-

Leasehold Changes:

Joe and Lee Painter at 1527 Woodland Lane are now living in their recently renovated home  
Steven and Jen Curley's home at 1507 The Mall has been sold and the new owners, Michael and Marian  
Pione should now be moved in.

Clarence and Malora Lucas' home, 50 Chestnut Street, has been sold and the new owners, Marc Morfei  
and Gayle Lafferty should be moving in as we speak.

Zac and Sarah Stevenson's home at 2309 Loreley Lane has been sold. A late November settlement is  
scheduled.

Acknowledgement of all new residents in attendance at the meeting.

As always, if you know of any other leasehold changes or changes in residents/rentals within Ardentown, please  
see one of the Registration Committee members after the meeting. The members are Cindy Cohen, Betty Ann Themal,  
and Maureen Gordon. After all, it takes a village to keep track of all the changes!

*Committee Appointments:* Betty Ann Themal was re-elected to the Registration Committee for another two year term  
from September 2019 to September 2021. Both Maureen Gordon and Cindy Cohen are up for re-election in Sept. 2020  
November Social Hour: As you hopefully took advantage of, before tonight's Town Meeting, the Registration Committee  
sponsored our Annual Wine and Cheese Social Hour from 6:30-7:30 pm. We thank our hostesses, Beverley Fleming and  
Terri Hansen for their wonderful hospitality tonight. Let's give them a round of applause and thank them for their effort.

**MEMORIAL GARDEN:** Betty Ann Themal reporting- Several Committee members met on September 24 and worked  
pulling quantities of English Ivy and wild Clematis vines from the trees and shrubs, removing dead branches from  
Leyland Cypress trees.

Several weeks later Cheryl Regan planted two redbud saplings given to us by Elaine Schmerling. She also pruned  
the rhododendron, cut back rose bushes and japonica shrub, as well as removing numerous volunteer saplings as we had  
discussed at a prior meeting.

Ron's Tree Service was hired to remove low hanging branches on hemlocks and linden trees and remove the  
debris.

**ASSESSMENT COMMITTEE:** Joe Grippe reporting - the core committee has met to discuss their role, and will invite the  
ex-officio members from the Budget and Audit committees to their next meeting.

**PUBLIC WORKS:** Paul Romagano reporting

**Roads:** There are a few deteriorating road areas that have been put on the list for next years repairs. One is down  
Woodland Road by the culvert, and one is around the Apple Tree Lane curve across from the path.

**Snow:** The snow contract for 2019/2020 is in the process of being finalized.

**Misc:** Rich Cropper spotted a fire October 1<sup>st</sup> at the base of the power lines down by the creek. He used 14 gallons of  
water to douse it. Thanks Rich!

A pine tree was precariously leaning from the Henry George Green over Swiss Lane and was removed to prevent  
it coming down.

There was a large branch that fell down near the bottom of Brae road and was leaning on wires. Delmarva came  
out and said it wasn't their lines and left. Verizon came out, and said they would need to call someone to come take it  
down. No one ever showed up, so when they were called again, they informed us that they do not remove branches,  
they only repair the lines if they come down. Ron's tree service did an emergency call to take the branch down.

**Compost Area:** Rich Cropper took out the three leftmost bins and combined the compost in the remaining bins (he since used most of the leftmost bin). We have started planting baby trees, a few shrubs and some groundcovers, put brown paper as a biodegradable weed barrier.

**Natural lands:** Elaine Schmerling's main focus has been the Spotted Lanternfly (SLF). See her Page article (on tables), at Harry Thernal's suggestion, we will be forming a 3-Ardens SLF Task Force, please sign up if you are interested. We have the winter to come up with a basic plan, i.e., for saving our town trees WHERE we have enough helpers to manage, and targeting traps near known infestations. Winter is also the time to search for and remove egg masses, especially in these areas. Carol Larson helped to develop a wildlife-friendly trap (see instructions), and already Edmund Bischoff and a few others have other ideas – we are up for improvements!- reducing bycatch (unlike the sticky tape DDA gave me, even with construction fabric over).

So far, with various helpers (volunteers, and Redtail Restoration), well over 1,250 adults have been killed (hopefully preventing that number or more of egg masses). Well over 100 egg masses have also been destroyed (each egg mass can have 30-50 eggs) so 1,000's less for next year.

Since the Page writing, have found huge infestations on Japanese Syrax (snowball) trees as well, including on 6 on town land on Springhouse Ln and into the Glen; and all over young silver maples (with smooth bark) between the Candlelight and stream. Have destroyed many bugs and egg masses as best as we can.

The worst infestations have been along the RR tracks, not just the Tree of Heaven (where we had put traps up), but just discovered a huge colony of a new invasive for me, the Bee Bee Tree (natural range in China with the SLF). There is a huge one behind Barbara Conway & Maura Lynch's, and behind it, the entire town land area (Harry said 8'), is all bee bee tree, it has kept the Tree of heaven, just after it on CSX land, at bay. Elaine Schmerling had Redtail with her, they tried to remove bee bee tree seed heads, but they are way high up in large trees, and found perhaps 50 egg masses at that small spot alone (along with multiples more SLF's, some we caught, many others were there).

Where traps were put up early October on the Sunnyside side along the rim, found just a few egg masses. The traps seemed to work pretty well in preventing these numbers of eggs but we will see next year.

A DE Forest Service rep was very interested in our traps, would like to speak to our group (task force) about the SFL, and suggested we apply for a DISC mini-grant (due end of the month).

Elaine Schmerling is proposing applying for this mini-grant for:

- 1) a large sheath of mosquito netting for these traps next year, to use where volunteers are involved; we think they are best for adults starting Aug/Sept but can see if they work for juveniles;
- 2) to purchase and try a different trap that may work better for juveniles with a clear covering, and
- 3) to pay Bartlett to make "trap" trees on various trees including 4 AA trees (2 remaining live ones IN Sunnyside, and 2 on town land behind Hope's house, as long as Hope approves-other neighbors around that approve); and on Syrax's on Springhouse Ln on town land. We 3 neighbors approve. SLF is the only bug eating these trees, both native trees in China the SLF feeds on, and the SLF is highly attracted to them. It would be applied AFTER flowering only, and hence would only affect the SLF and no native insects (approved by Doug Tallamy – one scale is known to feed on the Syrax, Tallamy thinks it is an introduced scale); warning: the tree companies are all ready to put insecticide on any tree people see infestations on. I am worried that this could decimate our native insects too – and hence would like to try steering to only these native Asian trees that wouldn't affect anything else (bee bee tree doesn't work, since it flowers July-Aug, and could hurt bees). Japanese maple would be a good candidate too but I haven't yet seen them on it.

**TRUSTEES REPORT:** Harry Thernal - regarding Ivy Gables and George Loudon, the Fire Marshall has approved the revised plans but other offices are reviewing. Bids have been accepted and they are ready to go once approvals are given.

The Richardson family has agreed to sell the leasehold and that will settle the situation on their leasehold, 2302 Loreley Lane.

Candlelight Theater had their 50th Anniversary celebration. Thanks to the Candlelight renters for being wonderful tenants.

Asplundh will be working on trimming trees on East Mall, Brae, Valley, and Sconset.

Joan Fitzgerald - there have been three leasehold changes (see Registration Committee report)

**BUZZ WARE COMMITTEE:** no report

**ARCHIVES COMMITTEE:** Melissa Parsonson reporting- We have a new exhibit to mark the 15th Anniversary of the museum. A new curator has been brought on. Please check us out at the upcoming Holiday Shop on Saturday of Thanksgiving weekend at the Gild.

**TOWN CHAIR REPORT:** Safe routes to school meeting. Alison and Pat Lane met with Deldot regarding the crossing at Sconset Road and Harvey Road. Pat Lane will continue to coordinate with Deldot on this.

Ray Seigfried has arranged meetings with Deldot, the Ardens' town chairs and local leaders regarding the intersection at Marsh and Harvey. Deldot is looking into a plan to stagger the traffic lights to make the intersection safer.

In coordination with Janna Schefflen concerning a plan to reach people in the Village quickly in the case of an urgent need, it appears we could hire a company to set us up very well via texting, but it would be prohibitively expensive. Since the ACRA Directory committee is also looking into this, we will be coordinating with ACRA to find solutions.

There is a FOIA training in Dover coming up. The Town Chair receives ongoing notices about training opportunities, so if anyone is interested in attending any training sessions please reach out to Alison.

**ELECTIONS:**

Town Secretary- Terri Hansen willing to stand for reelection- Terri is reelected unanimously

Town Treasurer- Holly Custer is willing to stand for reelection. Holly reelected unanimously

Community Planning- Joan, Holly and Oliver all reelected unanimously

**NEW BUSINESS:** Annie Gutsche- ACRA Directory will be published next year. Please reach out to the Ardentown registration committee to update your information if it was wrong last time.

Joe Grippe- meeting minutes from the special town meeting? Were they approved?

Melissa Parsonson- concerned with the speed and danger of the traffic. Alison will reach out to Cheryl Regan.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:30 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Terri Hansen